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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30, 1885

SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE.

All classes of people the world over are more or less superstitious. It has sometimes been questioned whether degrees of superstition depend upon states of civilization or whether civilization only serves to throw into the background and tone down these fallacious beliefs of the people, which seem to be inherent qualities common to the human race. When civilization improves the condition of primitive races, the local and national beliefs of the tribes are gradually relegated to the realms of folk-lore and mythology. It is not, therefore, astonishing to find the primitive beliefs of a people seemingly inherited by prominent individuals and constantly cropping out from the counter to the throne.

Great minds in all nations are found almost invariably clinging to one or more of the inherited superstitions of the past, while they would probably laugh at the common and absurd traditions whence spring these individual beliefs.

Native Hawaiians are generally classed as a superstitious people, but it would be hard to make a philosophical, or at least a logical distinction, between our native superstition of "praying an enemy to death" and the superstitions held by some of the crowned heads of Europe. For instance, some native Hawaiians believe he will be prayed to death and the Prince of Wales believes he will never be King of England. In both cases the native and the Prince have illogically eliminated all chances of a contrary fate—provided they really believe in their superstitions.

On the other hand, it is no proof that their ground of belief is true, even though coincidence should carry out both superstitions to their fullest consummation. The Prince of Wales and the native Hawaiian may stand at the extremes of civilization, but as far as the superstition is concerned they are locked in the closest logical embrace.

SIDEWALK OBSTRUCTIONS.

The custom, which obtains in Honolulu, of obstructing the sidewalks, until, in many instances, they become dangerous to foot passengers is one that the authorities should make some provision to abate. In no well regulated city are such liberties with the convenience and safety of foot passengers allowed. Take for instance any town, even of the Western United States, which is governed by municipal law and the obstructions to sidewalks which are tolerated in Honolulu would not be allowed to remain an hour. More than this: in well regulated cities, if the authorities neglect their duty in enforcing the law, the city itself is liable to the damage sustained through their neglect.

Instances are numerous in almost any city, except Honolulu, of both corporations and individuals being made to pay damages for injuries sustained from obstructions to the public thoroughfares. It would not be so bad if the streets of Honolulu were properly lighted; but where the citizen has to combat with both pitfalls and darkness, there should be somebody made responsible for damages sustained. In Honolulu, merchants are the first offenders and thoughtless citizens and all contractors offend generally. If there is no law to protect the wayfarer in Honolulu, there ought to be one passed at the next legislature.

The P. C. Advertiser has struck the right lead on the sanitary question, and we hope they will aid the work in good earnest by immediately publishing the list of property-owners, who may be properly called criminal offenders against the public health. If they haven't got the grit to carry out their good resolution, the Press will do it for them before the matter is dropped.

Hawaiian Art.

It will take two or three weeks to develop all the peculiar features of the industrial exhibition. For instance, a new picture by Tavernier, which belongs by right in the art department, is hung in the department sacred to the advertisements of a frame-maker. With the new picture, which is, as customary, a scene of the volcano of Kilauea, H. I., there is another volcano picture which has already been described in these columns. The two, with due credit to the frame-maker, are well hung and artistically draped. An arrangement is made by which they can be lighted from below in a properly lurid manner, thus giving them the benefit of a highly theatrical presentation. Tavernier's first few volcano pictures were studies of flame and darkness. Into this last he lets a little daylight, and this may perhaps be interpreted as a welcome sign that pretty soon he will begin to paint something else. The green in the left of the foreground is a link between the known and unknown. An atmosphere in which there is something of daylight pales the fires that burst forth here and there across the wide plain of smoldering lava, and there is a mellowness in the distant sky which strikes the beholder with something of a familiar charm.

Tavernier is a painter who has the true sentiment of art. Who can forget his admirable studies of the Indian country? canvases that now adorn the best of our local collections. After he had wearied of the Indians and the plains it was Tavernier who first discovered Monterey, *i. e.*, from an artistic point of view. In his first enthusiasm over the cypresses, the fantastic coastline, the picturesque ruins, and the historical suggestiveness of it all, he produced such pictures as the weird "Indian Sun Dance," belonging now to the collection of Edward Bosqui. Abandoning Monterey, he next became enamored of the redwoods. With his bias for supernatural effects it is not strange that one of his very best redwood pictures should be a pastel of the "Burial of Care," owned by General Barnes. His last love is now the volcano of Kilauea, and in this he has his fill of the supernatural ready to hand.

It seems now that his volcano pictures, while undeniably fine, will not wear as well as the others. Not only do they transcend the limits of the ordinary experience, but there is in them no constant appeal to the general imagination. Take the picture of the Monterey period, called the "Artist's Dream," and owned by the Bohemian Club. An artist, lying by the campfire, traces pictures in the smoke-wreaths as they combine themselves with the fantastic boughs of the cypress trees. No human being who has ever dreamed a waking dream can be insensible to this picture. To-day it appeals to one of your moods, to-morrow to another. But in the pictures of the volcano there is too much of nature and too little of human sentiment. A volcano is an awful phenomenon. And, while a man may wish for a time to behold an awful phenomenon, it ceases to appeal to him if it is always at his elbow.

Yet the volcano pictures must not be undervalued. If I had only one picture to own I should not choose the volcano; but if I possessed a gallery I could hardly choose a more interesting addition to it. Tavernier will produce at the most, four or five of these pictures. They cannot be duplicated. No one else is going to paint anything like them. Years may come and years may go, and the volcano may go on for ever, but it will be a long time before such a fiery imagination as Tavernier's will appear to seize and fix on the canvas such fiery facts as these.—*Fingal Buchanan in San Francisco.*

Sugar Crops, Markets and Statistics.

The following extracts are taken from the New York Shipping List of Aug. 15:

Java Crop.—Instead of a surplus, as anticipated, it now appears by mail and cable advices that the crop will be found from ten to fifteen per cent. below last year—say 33,000 to 50,000 tons less.

Beet Crop.—Mr. Licht's August estimate gives a shortage of 450,000 tons. The drought in France will reduce the crop in that country, in the opinion of some, to 250,000 tons against 325,000 last season, and 474,676 the previous season. This will make France an importer of 100,000 to 150,000 tons of sugar. A syndicate of German fabricants are buying beet sugar largely, in the belief that the short crop in their country will advance prices rapidly in the next few months.

Exports of refined sugar from New York to United Kingdom, by steamers sailing in July, comprised: To Liverpool, 2,150 bbls; London, 10,032, Glasgow, 7,333, Bristol, 7,100, Hull, 2,750, Leith, 1,850 and Newcastle 500—total 31,715 bbls, against 104,246 during June.

Cuba.—Stocks in Havana and Matanzas Aug. 6 were 69,475 tons against 73,384 last year.

San Francisco Aug. 6.—Receipts of sugar in July were 8,728 tons from Sandwich Islands and 200 tons from Central America—total 8,928 tons in July. Total since January 1, 68,059 tons against 52,049 for the same time last year.

Havana, Aug. 8 (per mail).—The continuance of adverse reports from the leading consuming centers has imparted much quietness to this market, and several large parcels brought forward during the week were withdrawn from want of acceptable offers, and for the few small ones that changed hands holders were compelled to make concessions in prices, which close to-day rather weak and nominal.

Sugar.

Our scientific knowledge in regard to sugar extends only to the fact that certain molecules of matter grouped in certain forms have the power of producing upon the moist surface of the mouth and tongue the agreeable sensation called sweet. Analysis shows the structure of sweet bodies, but nothing more. So far as science is capable of explaining things, it often fails at the most interesting stage of inquiry, and this is the case with sweets. It fails to show why a lump of sugar is sweet and a drop of vinegar or acetic acid is sour. The point where light ceases to fall on the pathway of the investigator is that where curiosity and interest most intensely center. Why bodies are sweet, sour or bitter can never be known. The mystery belongs to that department of the organic not open to human research.

Of late years we have fallen into the habit of classing all sweets, with the exception of honey, perhaps, under the common name of sugar, as cane sugar or grape sugar and so on; but really there is only one substance properly entitled to the name, and that is cane sugar, or sugar of a similar character produced from other substances, as beets, sugar maple and so on. All the other sweets, scientifically classed to themselves as glucose, are simply sweet gums, not sugars.

The true sugar is presented to us in the form of aggregated, well-defined crystals, permanent under all atmospheric changes and elegant in luster and freedom from color when well refined. It is not only the sweetest of all sweets, but one of the indispensable gifts of a wise intelligence to man. It is called cane sugar because it is produced spontaneously and abundantly in the cane grown in tropical climates. While it is impossible in the present stage of our knowledge to make cane sugar artificially, it is quite easy to make the sweet substance known as grape sugar or glucose, and to make it in immense quantities at very small cost, which fact of itself is enough to condemn it as a sweet to take the place of real sugar. With the exception of air and water, perhaps, nature puts none of our absolute needs to us so easily as she puts glucose. The fact is, glucose is neither an essential nor a makeshift. We must have sugar to meet the requirements of the animal organization, and we can no more get it out of glucose than we can out of pipe clay. We may gratify the palate with glucose, but we cannot supply the natural demand. Were it possible to feed us on glucose alone, we should still find ourselves dying for the want of sugar—the glucose could not supply the demand.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

New Life-Saving Station.

The S. F. Bulletin says: "The wreck of the *Haddingtonshire* at Point Reyes has given rise to considerable discussion as to the establishment of a life-saving station at that point.

Superintendent Blakeney of the Life-Saving Service, in his report to the General Superintendent, recommended and urged the establishment of a station at Point Reyes or in the little cove around the point from the light house in Drake's Bay. This, with other similar recommendations for the improvement of the Service on this coast, came before the last Congress, but failed to pass. It was originally intended that the Bolinas Bay Station, recently destroyed by fire, should be located at the point mentioned, but through some error in the directions it was put at Bolinas. Had that station been in order, the Superintendent considers it doubtful if the life boat and wrecking appliances could have been of service in the case of the *Haddingtonshire*, considering the distance and the weather.

There is at present no communication except a trail on which the traveler is privileged to walk between the Government's costly lighthouse at the point and Olema—about twenty-five miles. The keeper agreed to care for a horse if the Government would give him one, and Com. Philip so made the recommendation last year, but without avail. It is the general feeling that a Signal Station should be established at Point Reyes—a locality, considering the fact that north coasting vessels and that all vessels desiring to enter the Golden Gate invariably lay their their course at first to the northward, at least of equal importance with Point Lobos. There should also be communication with this city by telegraph or telephone.

John McCullough's mind is rapidly breaking up in the Bloomingdale asylum.

The report of Engineer Menacat is very unfavorable to the Panama canal, both in respect to its finance and to the engineering problem.

The Standard Oil Company has subscribed \$5,000 to the proposed monument to E. L. Drake, the discoverer of petroleum in Pennsylvania.

The Cambrian steamship Company has decided to run a fleet of steamers from Swansea, England, to Philadelphia. The departures will be made every three weeks. The inward cargoes will consist of tin, while the outward freight will be mostly grain.

A hotel-keeper at Rathkeale, County Limerick, having been boycotted by the National League, finds it difficult to get any bread or meat. A vigilance committee has been established whose business is to watch traders who act contrary to the wishes of the league.

The New Orleans *Academy* says: "The business year just closed has brought to an end one of the most discouraging eras in the commercial history of New Orleans. It was a year of no profits, generally steady losses and a season of shaken confidence and industrial depression."

General Advertisements.

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New Advertisement.

Light on his shy crest his slender head,
His body short, his joints luxuriant spread;
Muscle on muscle knots his bristly breast,
No fear alarms him, no vain shouts molest;
O'er his high shoulder, floating full and fair,
Sweeps his thick mane and spreads his pomp of hair;
Swift works his double spine, and arch around
Kicks to his solid hoof that wears the ground—(Ventrone).

VENTURE.

This well-known Trotting Stallion is now standing at the corner of Punchbowl and Queen streets, and breeders, horsemen and stock-owners should take advantage of the opportunity to obtain his blood while they have the chance. He is now looking and feeling nearly as well as he ever did in his life, and moves as lively and his eye is as bright and he is as vigorous as a four-year-old horse.

It does not require a great horseman to discover great points of excellence in VENTURE. The ordinary citizen, upon beholding him, will be impressed immediately with his grand make-up, magnificent length, and elegant finish. If he is not the greatest horse that ever came to this country, he is surely one of the greatest, and as a turf performer, he towers as far above them all as he does above a sucking colt in stature.

A great deal of importance has lately been attached to the value of a horse that is being kept for stock purposes, whether he is standard or not, and the President of the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders in America strongly advises people not to purchase stallions that are not standard bred, and he also advises them to select one not only standard bred, but if possible one that is a standard by his own performance, which is a public record of 2:30, or better, and even more than this by the performance of his get also. Now, if this rule was rightly applied it would exclude all such great horses as Electioneer and the sire of Maid S., and Jay Eye See, etc., for while they have become greatly renowned by the performance of their get, they never were turf performers themselves.

Now, we will see, for curiosity, how near VENTURE comes to possessing these three qualifications, namely: Breeding, performance and performance of his get.

As to breeding, he is the peer of any horse on earth, and I don't except the great Hermit, who is the most popular stallion in England, and whose service fee is £500, he being the sire of three Derby winners.

As to his own performance, he meets the requirements, having a public record of 2:27 1/4—2:30 being the standard of admission.

His get are now just beginning to be appreciated in California, one of which (Vengeance) won a good race quite lately in Sacramento, in straight heats, making a record of 2:24, and is said to be able to trot close to 2:20, when called upon to do so.

With these facts before us, VENTURE looms up as one of the greatest horses, not only in this but in any other country, and the day is past when people will heed anything but the very best; and while the death of two such great horses as Bowell and Bazar is greatly deplored by all true horsemen, still it is a great consolation that there is so good a horse as VENTURE to fill their place.

VENTURE is an aged horse, but he is one year younger than Dictator, who was sold only last year in Kentucky for \$25,000, on the strength of his being the sire of Jay Eye See. His stud fee is \$500. He is also ten years younger than Volunteer (sire of St. Julian), whose fee is \$500. All things taken into consideration, I cannot see why VENTURE is not as desirable a horse to breed from as any of them, or why he is not as worthy of the patronage of the public. Below I will give his pedigree, of which I invite a comparison with that of any other horse in the country:

VENTURE, chestnut horse, 16 hands, foaled in 1854; sired by Belmont, he by American Boy, he by Sea Gull, he by imp. Expedition.

1st dam, Miss Mott, by American
ad dam, by Kemmer's Gray Medley
3d dam, imp. Lady Mott, by Ten
4th dam, L. Vail, by Whisker
5th dam, Helen, by Hambletonian
6th dam, Sam, by Exton
7th dam, Drowsy, by Froze
8th dam, by Old England
9th dam, by Cullen Arabian
10th dam, Miss Cade, by Cade
11th dam, by Partner
12th dam, Miss Does, dam by Woodcock
13th dam, by Croft's Bay Horse
14th dam, Desdemona, dam by Malinew
15th dam, by Brimmer
16th dam, by Dickey Person
17th dam, Barton Earl, Mare

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